

Book Review

The Oxyrhynchus Papyri, LXXXI (Nos 5258–5289).

Edited with translations and notes by J. H. BRUSUELAS and C. MECCARIELLO. *Graeco-Roman Memoirs* 102. Pp. xii + 167, pls XII. London, The Egypt Exploration Society, 2016. ISBN 978-0-85698-229-3. Price £85.

The papyri published in this 81st volume of *Oxyrhynchus Papyri* include many new or unique texts. Twenty-two established as well as new papyrologists have contributed text editions; parts of students' theses and course work for the Oxford course of Literary Papyrology are incorporated. This volume also benefited from the identification of fragments by volunteers of the online community through the Ancient Lives project.¹ From the 32 papyri published in this volume, 23 are literary, 5 are sub-literary and 4 are documents.

I. The first three literary texts are of a theological nature. No. 5258 (edited by G. S. Smith) is a small papyrus fragment with Ephesians (attested for the first time in *Oxyrhynchus*), 3:21–4:2, 14–16. No. 5259 (J. Shao) contains a part of I Timothy 3:13–4:8; the third-century papyrus is the earliest attestation of I Timothy to date. In line 22, figures the not earlier attested *nomen sacrum* $\pi\nu\sigma\tau\iota$ for $\piνεύμασιν$. No. 5260 (B. Landau, T. C. Hoklotubbe) is part of a fifth/sixth-century papyrus with a version of the Hymn of the Cross in two columns. The staurograms at the beginning of each line suggest it may concern an amulet, although rather large to wear since even the fragment measures 24.2×18.5 cm.

II. Four papyri contain new literature, which is exciting even in the case of tiny fragments, such as the remains of three lines from a roll with the *Elegies* of Simonides, recognised from its quotation by Athenaeus (no. 5261, first/second century AD, J. H. Brusuelas). Greek romance is represented by two new fragments of the story about the legendary pharaoh Sesonchosis: no. 5262 from the third century AD (belonging to P. Oxy. XXVII 2466) and no. 5263 from the second century AD. No. 5264 contains a further unknown story 'On a Queen and Her Pyramids' (late second–early third century AD). The elaborate commentary on the romance papyri is based on the Harvard doctoral thesis written by Yvona Trnka-Amrhein.

III. The remaining literary papyri contain parts of texts already known through the medieval manuscript tradition, but many are attested on papyrus for the first time. Most are dated to the second and third centuries AD. No. 5265 (J. H. Brusuelas) with Theognis, *Elegies* 1117–40 is only

the third papyrus fragment with Theognis. The fragment of a fifth-century papyrus codex with several lines of Sophocles, *Philoctetes* (no. 5266, S. Bocksberger, C. Meccariello) brings the total of Sophocles' papyri up to 18. The papyrus fragment with Polybius, *Histories* 28.2.5–7 (no. 5267, J. H. Brusuelas), is only 'the second to reveal a glimpse of the *Histories* before it was epitomized'. No. 5268 (C. Cheung) from a roll with Strabo, *Geographica*, is the fifth published papyrus with part of this work, and the only one with text from Book I: I.2.31. No. 5269 (S. P. C. Hendriks) is a fragment of a fourth/fifth-century papyrus codex containing the Latin text of Virgil, *Aeneid* VI 493–7, 528–32 and the second papyrus to contain part of Book VI. No. 5270 (J. H. Brusuelas) is the ninth papyrus of Plutarch and the second with a fragment of the *Life of Caesar: Vita Caesaris* 45.8–46.1. No. 5271 (J. H. Brusuelas, C. Meccariello, G. Verhasselt) may represent a very small part of *De proverbii Alexandrinorum* 50, sometimes ascribed to Plutarch (but it is argued that this text might also be Zenobius). Nos 5272–5274 are fragments of papyrus rolls with Epictetus, *Discourses* (being the notes that Arrianus took of Epictetus' teaching). Only recently the first papyrus with part of the *Discourses* was published, and all papyri are dated to the late second–early third century AD. James Brusuelas shows in his introduction how early papyrus evidence like this is needed to throw light on questions about the publication and circulation of this text after the death of Epictetus (c.135 AD), perhaps already during the lifetime of Arrianus. Of these papyri, nos 5272–5273 earlier formed part of the Oxford MSt thesis of Alexandra Schultz. No. 5275 (E. Marquis) contains a fragment (only the second on papyrus) of Lucian, *Cataplus* (19) §20, written in a documentary hand with affinities to the 'chancery style'. Nos 5276–5277 are fragments of Oppian, *Halieutica* with an introduction by Pelaghia Strataki, who published no. 5276 as part of her Oxford doctoral thesis. The papyri were written no more than a generation after the composition of the poem, and of the four papyrological attestations published to date, no. 5277 (F. Schironi) may be the earliest (first half of the third century AD). This fragment shows a remarkably elaborate *coronis* at the end. A small part of a codex leaf from the fourth century (no. 5278, M. Herrero) is the first papyrus attestation for [Oppian], *Cynegetica*; it contains 4.195–208 and 247–59 with a few interlinear corrections of a corrector. No. 5279 (C. Iturralde) is a fragment of a sixth-century papyrus codex with the first attestation of [Hermogenes], *Progymnasmata* containing 9.6 and 10.4–7. The last of the literary papyri (no. 5280, C. Chrysanthou), is another 'first': a fragment of a codex with parts of the sixth

¹ See Preface p. vi and <http://www.papyrology.ox.ac.uk/Ancient_Lives/> (accessed 21 August 2019).

speech of Themistius (VI 71D-72A, 72D-73A) dated to the fifth–sixth century AD.

These known literary fragments in this volume are all collated with the most important editions, variant readings are noted and their place in the manuscript tradition is discussed. Due attention is given to the handwriting and the layout of rolls and codices. It is amazing how much information was gained sometimes from tiny little scraps of papyrus. Traditionally, no translations of the known texts are provided, although I think they might be interesting for at least those readers who are not familiar with the sometimes rather obscure authors and works. Obscure as some of it may be to us, it is clear that this Greek literature was popular enough to be read in far-away Egypt, where it sometimes circulated already within decades after being written.

IV. The sub-literary papyri include an early first century ‘List of Homeric Names’, a scrap of papyrus with the same writing exercise on both sides, where the names of Peneleus, Arcesilaus and Epeigeus are repeated in the different hands and pens of several schoolboys or -girls (no. 5281, A. De Marinis). No. 5282 (D. Squire) was recognised as belonging to P. Köln II 78 containing *Odyssey* XX 365–70; dated to the first century BC or AD, it may have formed part of an anthology of Homeric speeches or even of a drama-script of a Homeristes playing the role of Theoclymenus; its roll height was calculated at just c.9.5 cm. Nos 5283–5285 are three second-century AD papyri with Euripidean hypotheses or plot summaries (including those of the lost plays Dictys and Danae), published with introduction, remarkably extensive commentaries and English translations by Chiara Meccariello; no. 5283, a more substantial papyrus, seems to represent a different collection of summaries than the other two texts and all earlier attestations; no. 5285 belongs to P. Oxy. XXVII 2455.

V. Only four papyri published in this volume are of a documentary nature. No. 5286 (Ph. Schmitz) is the bottom part of a private letter dated 13–22 August AD 82, about problems with the transportation of goods to, possibly, the village of Aphrodision in the Small Oasis. No. 5287 (K. F. Funderburk) is one of the rare documents explicitly dated to the reign of Pescennius Niger, one of the emperors of the Year of the Five Emperors; he was acclaimed emperor by his army in the April of AD 193.² The text is part of the

end of an offer for purchase of probably ownerless property (worth 2,500 drachmas) auctioned off by the state. The final two complete documents originally formed part of the UCL doctoral thesis of Angeliki Syrkou: no. 5288 (25 June 570) is a gardener’s contract for the supply of vegetables (λάχανα, first attestation in such a contract), underwritten by a notary who may also have been a priest.³ No. 5289 from the seventh century is a petition from a lady (rare in this period) to an *antigeouchos*, the vice-regent of a rural estate, who is asked to intervene in a dispute between her and another lady with her mother. The petition is well executed in three different writing styles.⁴

In general, thinking of the presentation of papyrus documents, I wonder if we papyrologists should not avoid using untranslated Greek words in the introduction to the documentary texts,⁵ so as to facilitate their use by students and researchers of ancient history and others who nowadays do not always know Greek.

This volume contains a worthwhile contribution to our knowledge of, mainly, ancient Greek literature as read in the Egyptian city of Oxyrhynchus. All texts are published in the clear and thorough way for which the P. Oxy. series is known. The volume ends with the usual indexes and black-and-white plates of the most interesting papyri.⁶ The Oxyrhynchus papyri are published by a knowledgeable team of papyrologists. It is good to see how a younger generation is given the opportunity to work with and publish the papyri, while the experienced still give advice in the background. We find references and words of thanks to A. Henrichs, W. B. Henry, D. Obbink, P. J. Parsons, J. D. Thomas and even to the late M. West, among many others – the field of papyrology in particular benefits much from collaboration. The two main editors acquitted themselves well of their job: the book is nearly flawless.

FRANCISCA A. J. HOOGENDIJK
Leiden University, The Netherlands

² In the last line, at the end of the date the expected day number is lacking. The last letter of Θωθ, however, looks more like an epsilon. Perhaps Thoth 5 was meant: it looks like the writer mixed up the similar letterforms and erroneously corrected the final *theta* into an *epsilon*. Thoth 5 of year 2 would be 2 September AD 193.

³ In no. 5288 end of line 10, two more letters are visible: read Ὁξυρυγχι(του).

⁴ No. 5289, at the end of line 1 transcribe Θεόν instead of Θ(εόν); line 18 in ἀδικεῖ||ηθῆναι the ην really needs an underdot: no trace of it is visible on the photograph.

⁵ In this volume, e.g. p. 152 τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς, p. 155 λάχανα, p. 158 φιλανθρωπία.

⁶ Good digital images of all papyri can be found in the Image Database of the Oxyrhynchus Online website: <<http://www.papyrology.ox.ac.uk/POxy/>> (accessed 21 August 2019).